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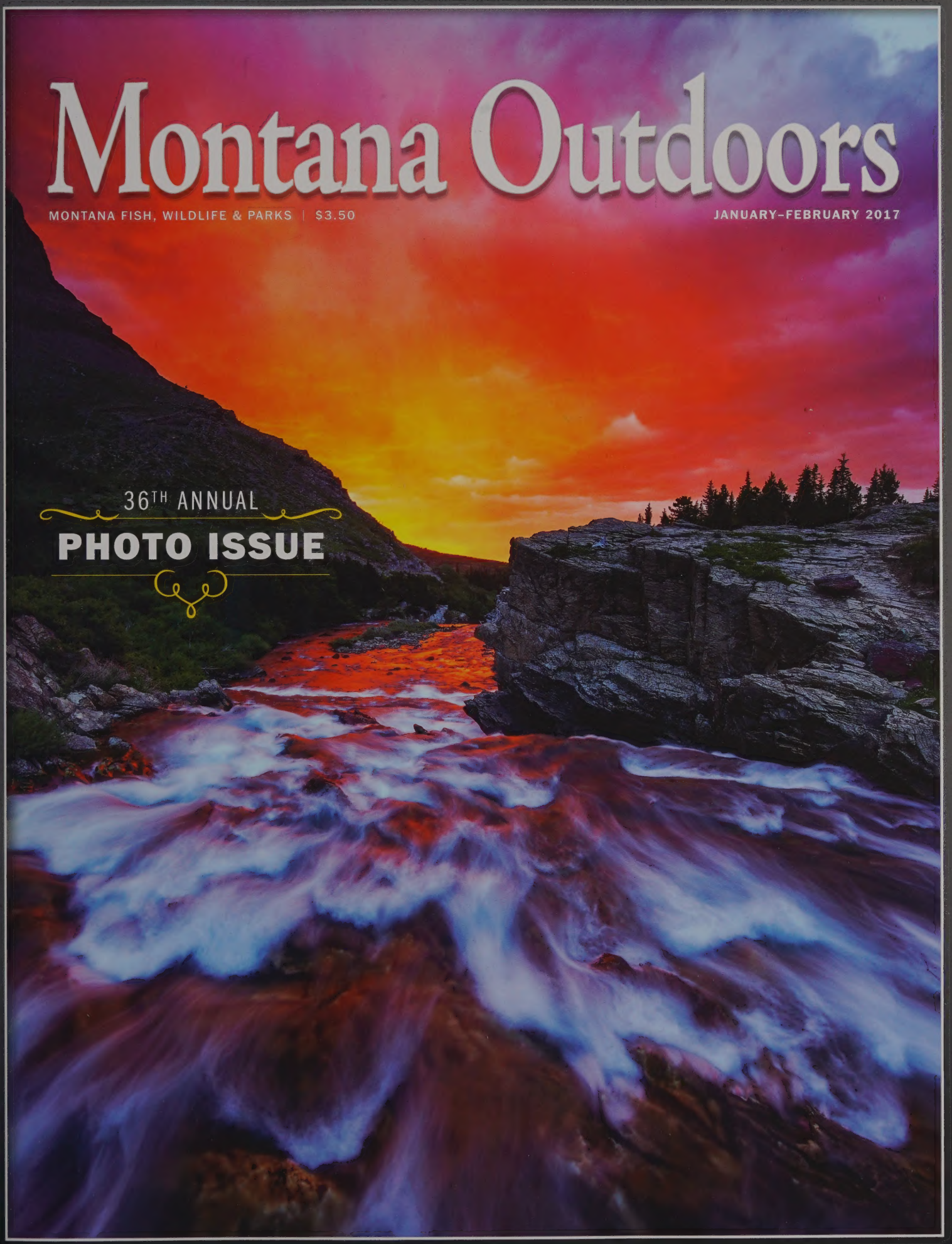
JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2017



36TH ANNUAL

PHOTO ISSUE

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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SECOND PLACE MAGAZINE: 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2016
Awarded by the Association for Conservation Information

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017

One thing we can all agree on

As it does every four years, the recent presidential election revealed stark differences among Americans. In yet another closely contested battle for the White House, voters supported the candidate who represented their values on divisive issues such as job creation, taxation, foreign policy, and health care. When the smoke cleared, it appeared we had two distinct countries, cleaved in half.

There's no sign that passions will abate anytime soon. Not on a national scale, nor here in Montana. Concerns about public access loss, private property rights, federal land management and transfers, endangered species designation, and habitat degradation keep Montanans writing letters to their congressional delegation, posting to Facebook, and Twittering up a storm.

A respite is in order—to catch our collective breath, temper emotions, and maybe even find some common ground.

In that spirit, we offer the 36th annual *Montana Outdoors* photo issue. Here you'll find no red counties or blue counties, no us versus them, just 86 spectacular images of Montana's wildlife, scenery, and natural wonders—massive and minuscule—that we selected from the more than 1,800 remarkable photographs sent to us last fall.

These pictures are vivid reminders of the beauty and wonder that exist all around us, and of how lucky we are to live in or visit Montana. Their very remarkability might even contribute in some small way to unifying a fractured electorate. As you find yourself grinning, gaping, even gasping at the images in the following pages, consider that *Montana Outdoors* subscribers across Montana and the United States who voted differently from you last November are likely doing the same.

It's not a group hug, but it's a start.

—Editor

KATE DAVIS
Above: A young bald eagle is attacked in flight by an American kestrel

CHRIS McGOWAN
Front cover: Sunrise over Swiftcurrent Falls in Glacier National Park

DENVER BRYAN
Right: Aspen leaves and duckweed on a pond

Clockwise from right:

STEVE MULLER
Sunrise atop Mount Jumbo, near Missoula

BRIAN POWERS
Sunrise behind lupine, near Kalispell

DONALD M. JONES
Greater sage-grouse displaying on a lek

Clockwise from top left:

TOM J. ULRICH
Baby red-necked grebes

VICKI CORREIA
Duckling at a pond,
Missoula County

ELIZABETH E. MOORE
Canada goose protecting
her goslings

ANDREW MERWIN
Killdeer and chicks,
near Bozeman

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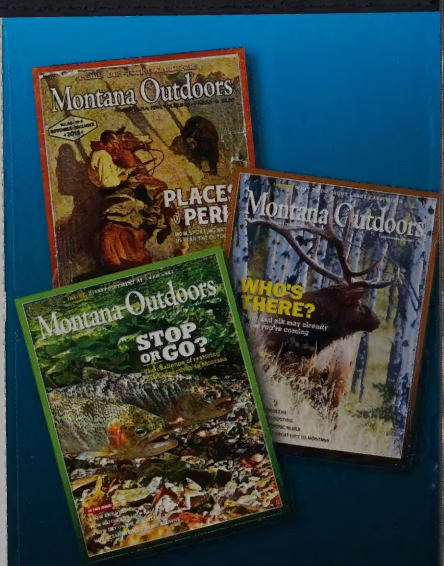

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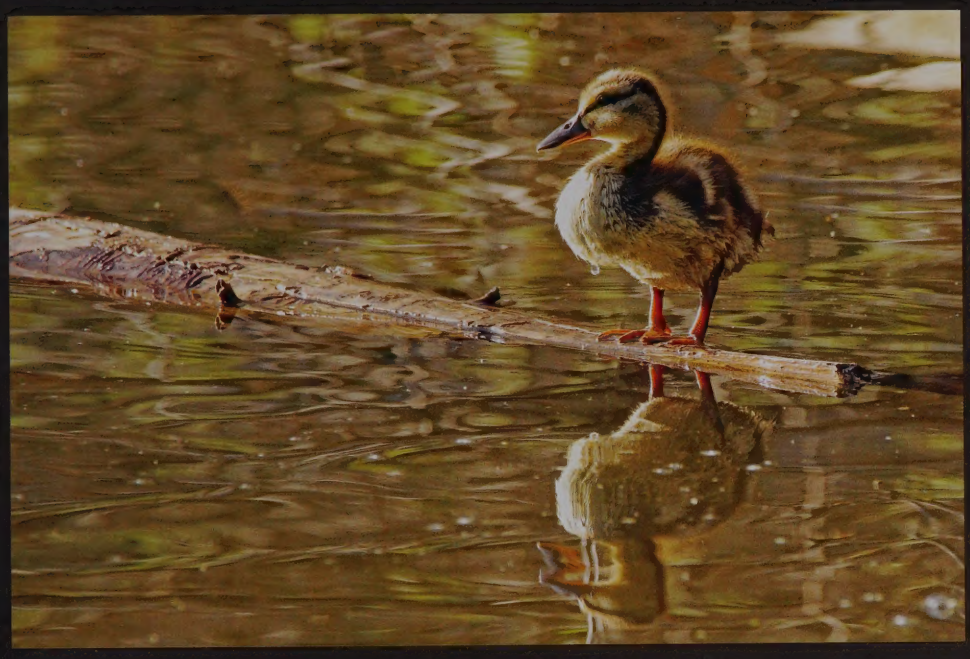
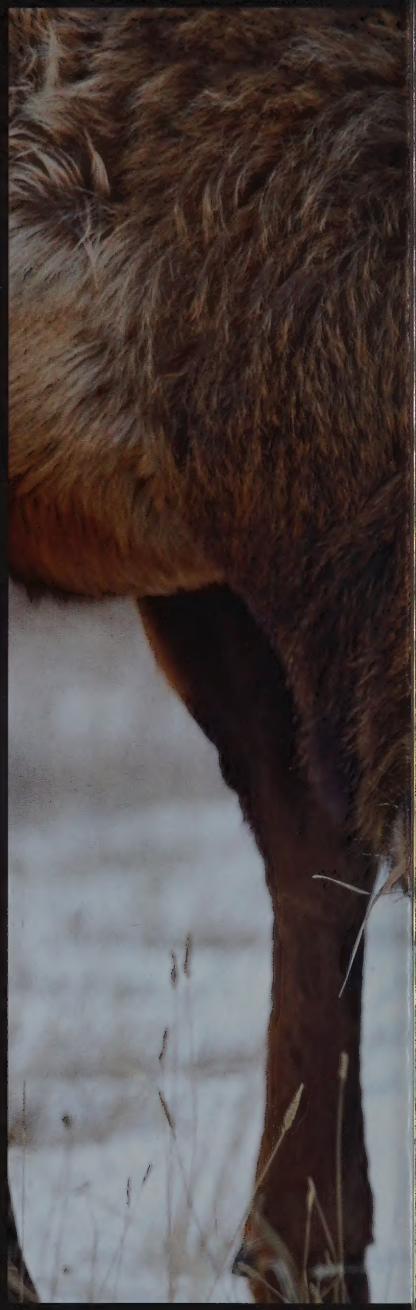
Plus the annual photo issue!



VICTOR SCHENDEL
Bull elk jumping



BECCA WOOD
Bull elk sparring, Paradise Valley

STEVE MULLER
Above: Sunset illuminating sandhill cranes in flight

KAREN R. ROGERS
Far left: Sandhill cranes in a wheat field, Gallatin Valley

DOUG HAMMERBERG
Left: Crane silhouettes, Flathead Valley

JASON SAVAGE
Below: Sandhill cranes dancing in the fog, Bitterroot Valley

LINDA S. MARTIN
Far left: Indian pipe, Trail of the Cedars, Glacier National Park

DEE LINNELL BANK
Left: English sundew in a wetland along the Continental Divide

ERIC REGENSBURGER
Below: Forget-me-nots on the Helena Ridge Trail

ROSS PETER NELSON
Above: Oregon grape, south hills of Helena

NICK FUCCI
Right: Beargrass blooming in the Jewel Basin Hiking Area

STEVEN GNAM
Far right: Western redcedar sprays, Flathead National Forest

Clockwise from far left

JAIME & LISA JOHNSON
River otter with a crayfish
near Bigfork

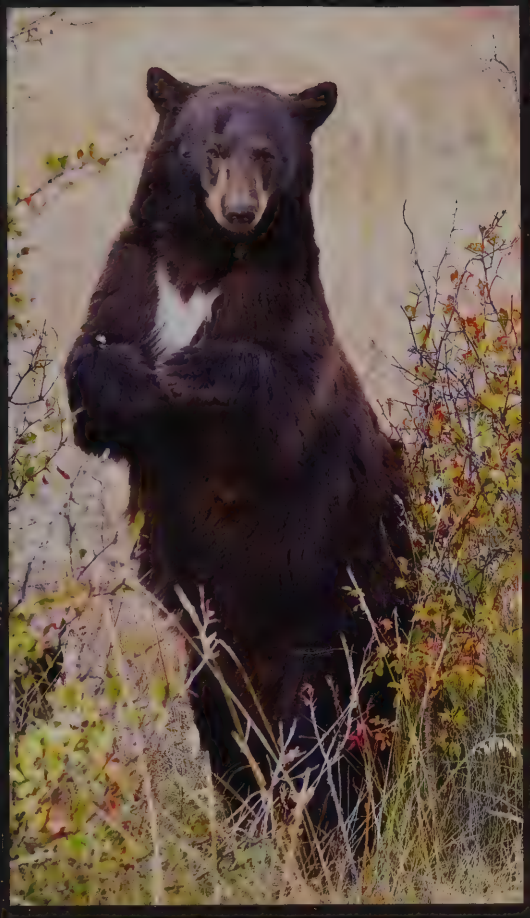
JOHN R. SHARKEY
Gull snatching a crayfish

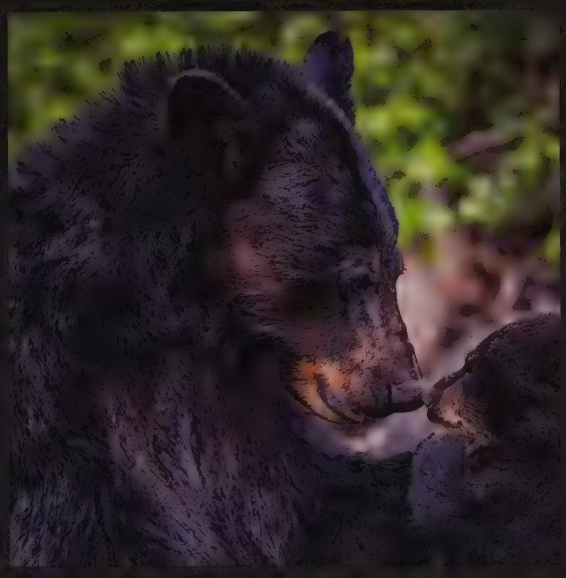
ELIZABETH CLAIRE ROSE
Frog resting on a rock
in the Boulder River, near the
Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

NICOLE KEINTZ
Above: Long exposure of quaking aspen in the Bitterroot Valley

ZACK CLOTHIER
Top: Aspen grove in northern Montana

JOHN JURACEK
Above: Detail of a quaking aspen leaf





Clockwise from far left:

ROWAN NYMAN
Young black bear

SAMUEL VEICH
Black bear feeding on berries

COLLEEN KILBANE
Black bear sow and cub near Red Lodge

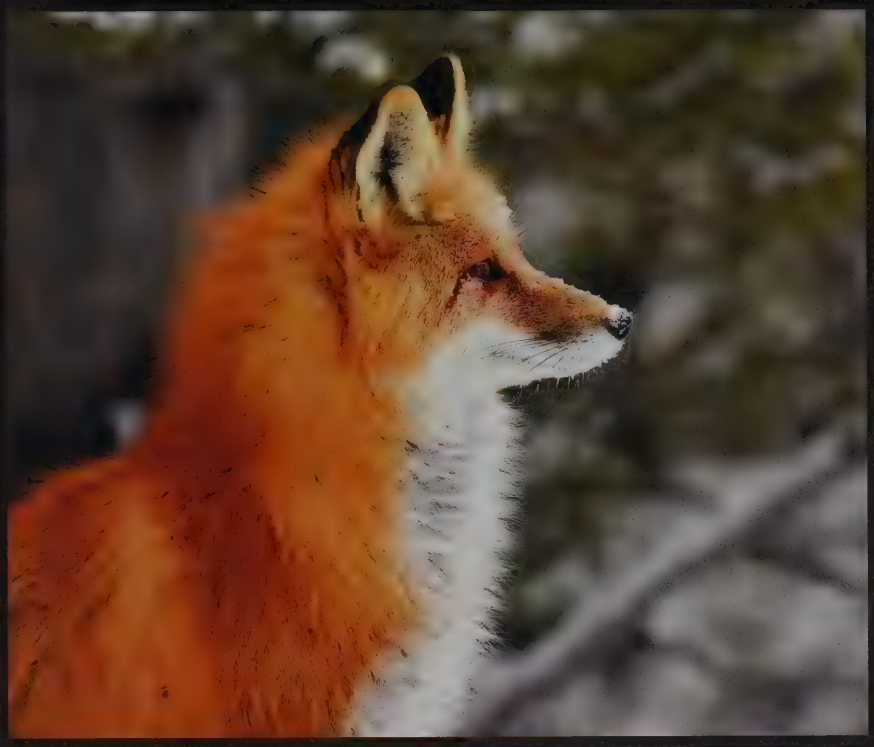
TRACY ENTERLINE
Black bear sow and cubs on the shore of Bighorn Lake

AARON SELIG
Above: Sunset over the Yellowstone River near Billings

NATHAN COOPER
Right: Sauger dorsal fin

ROLAND TAYLOR
Above: Hoodoos near LaBarge Rock on the Missouri River

JEREMIE HOLLMAN
Left: Salmonflies



Clockwise from far left:

DUANE HUIE
Red fox yawning, south of Livingston

MICHAEL L. HARING
Red fox, near Big Sky

PAUL HOLDORF
Red fox at sunrise against Lone Mountain, near Big Sky

BOB MARTINKA
Red fox hiding in vegetation, Centennial Valley

CHRIS McGOWAN
Red fox kit in the sun, near Helena

STEVE McMORRAN
Foggy sunrise over Lake Helena

GAIL MOSER
Top left: Swallowtail caterpillar

DEBRA A. SCHWARTZNAU
Top right: Clearwing moth

JOHN CARUSO
Above left: Dragonfly resting in front of a wild rose

ALLEN WIEDERRICH
Below: Leucospid wasps

BOB MARTINKA
Above right: Festive tiger beetle

DIANE ERHART
Below left: Monarch butterfly

CAROL POLICH
Above: Ant on a Rocky Mountain iris

JOAN M. STEWART
Below: Swallowtail butterfly

JESSE LEE VARNADO
Top: Bull moose feeding, near East Glacier

JAIME & LISA JOHNSON
Right: Bull moose sparring, near Seeley Lake

NELSON KENTER
Above left: Cow moose in the rain, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

STEVE McMORRAN
Far right: Bull moose shaking off rain, Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge

NICOLE KEINTZ
Left: Full moon rising on the summer solstice, near the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, north of Helena

BRANDON KIESLING
Top left: View from inside a tepee, near Harlowton

MARCEL HUIJSER
Above left: Bull elk at dawn in the National Bison Range, near Moise

RON HOFF
Top right: Ancient whitebark pine, Glacier National Park backcountry

KIM MICHELS
Above right: Wind-whipped snow across a wintery landscape

Clockwise from far left:

BRETT SWAIN
Short-tailed weasel in the Swan Mountain Range

DALE J. DUFOUR
American mink peering out from a river logjam

DAVID R. ARMER
American martin, near Bowman Lake

DONALD M. JONES
Black-footed ferret on a Montana prairie

JEREMIE HOLLMAN
Above left: Bull trout

DICK WALKER
Above right: Smallmouth bass eye, Lower Flathead River

BILL McDAVID
Below: Westslope cutthroat trout, Miller Lake

PAT CLAYTON
Opposite page: Arctic grayling in a high mountain lake

DONNA RIDGWAY
Right: Sunset on Clear Creek Road in the Bears Paw Mountains

GARY BEELER
Below: The remains of Castle Town on private property in the Castle Mountains

TRACY ENTERLINE
Left: View from an old mining cabin

LARRY A. KJORVESTAD
Right: An old cabin near a game trail on Bozeman Pass

JENNIE MARIE SCHELL
Far right: Wildflowers and grasses against a wire fence in the Ruby Valley

BEN PIERCE
Top: Moss hanging from a rock in an ice cave behind Grotto Falls in Hyalite Canyon

SUMIO HARADA
Above: Boreal toad tadpoles on aquatic plants, near West Glacier

BRANDON KIESLING
Right: Patterns in a geothermal feature in the northernmost part of Yellowstone National Park

ZACK CLOTHIER
Top left: Corn lilies (false hellebore) glow in evening light in Glacier National Park

LISA BAY
Top right: Water over rocks at Camp Creek in the Bob Marshall Wilderness

STEVEN GNAM
Above: Bumblebee on a willow catkin in the Flathead National Forest

STEVEN AKRE
Below left: Meadow and sky reflected in old charred wood

LARRY DEARS
Below right: Teasel frond spiral against frost

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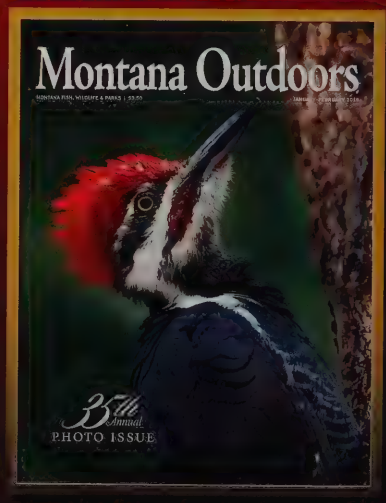

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the photo issue.
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JOHN WARNER
Above: Bison grazing in spring at the American Prairie Reserve, southern Phillips County

ALLEN WIEDERRICH
Left: Bighorn ram watching a herd of pronghorn pass

RANDY SMITH
Far left: Elk in the Missouri Breaks

Clockwise from right

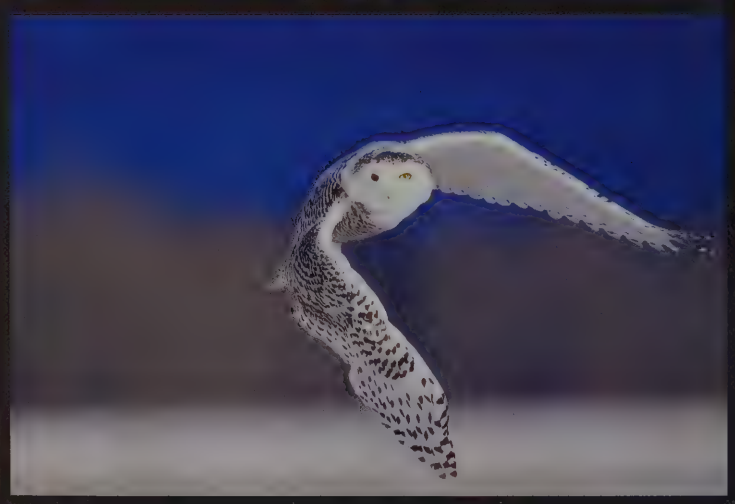
KEVIN LEAGUE
Sandhill crane silhouette

ROD SCHLECHT
Red-breasted nuthatch, near Cascade

KURT LINDSAY
Snowy owl, near Somers

CRAIG MILLER
Nighthawk

SHAWN T. STEWART
Rufous hummingbird feeding on nasturtium



KATE DAVIS
Left: Bald eagle harassed by a red-winged blackbird while carrying a trout to its nest

JOHN WARNER
Below: Canada geese on the Yellowstone River fleeing a bald eagle

Clockwise from top left:

JAMES RIDLE
The Milky Way rising over Tenmile Creek, near Rimini

KARL KRIEGER
Aurora borealis over the Missouri River, near Wolf Creek

CHUCK HANEY
Independence Day fireworks over Whitefish Lake

ERIC HEIDLE
A Taurid meteor streaking across the aurora-lit sky above central Montana

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TIM CHRISTIE
Two cows and a calf elk in morning mist

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